UCAPAWA News

UNITED CANNERY, AGRICULTURAL, PACKING AND ALLIED WORKERS OF AMERICA-CIO

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Keep 'em eating

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CAMPBELL SOUP '43 CONTRACT SIGNED

Philadelphia—The 1943 contracts bringing many gains have been signed at two of the Campbell Soup plants, by Local 80 in Camden, N. J., and by Local 194 in Chicago. Busy on Government Orders, including Army Rations, the two plants employ about 6,000 year-round workers and upwards of 12,000 during the peak tomato season.

Full stories on page 2.

DWG Pay Boost Above Rule OK'ed

Washington—Wage increases negotiated in January by the Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert Cigar Locals have been approved by the WLB.

Although the workers had won increases since Jan. 1941 of some 13%, pay boosts of 5c for hourly workers and of 7½% for piece workers were OK'd, in spite of the fact that the increases exceed the 15% allowed under the Little Steel formula.

UCAPAWA's case was based on the fact that DWG wages were sub-standard and that inequalities existed in comparison to similar jobs in other industries in the area.

Union Explodes Vagrancy Charges To Free Pickers

By Robert MacKay, International Representative

Orlando, Fla.—Five Negro citrus pickers who were arrested by the Orlando Police Department on charges of "vagrancy" were released March 16 after their cases had been dismissed by Police Judge Burcham. The pickers, all Local 4 members, had been arrested on the complaint of a number of citrus growers headed by one A. E. Karst, whose father is treasurer of the Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Karst has been extremely active against the CIO.

The charge of vagrancy was based on the allegation by the growers that the pickers in question had not worked all the time they should have been working, which, according to Judge Burcham, would have constituted vagrancy under the broad Florida statue.

Law-Abiding Citizens

It developed at the trial that these UCAPAWA members were the best pickers in their respective crews, and generally had the highest average of boxes picked. It was also shown that these men are leaders in the church, family men and consistent workers. It was obvious from the proceedings of the trial, that these men were subject of an unprincipled attack on their civil rights by the Orlando Police Department and the citrus growers who had inspired the arrests.

In the face of the strong case brought forward by UCAPAWA's counsel, Bradford G. Williams of Lakeland, the reactionaries had to retire to try to figure out some other union-busting tactic. Large numbers of UCAPAWA members who attended the trial were overjoyed at the results.

GOOD FOR VICTORY

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CONVERT AGRICULTURE TO WAR BASIS!

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Photos by Arthur Wiener

REASONS WHY NO CANNERY WORKER SHOULD BE PAID LESS THAN 40c AN HOUR were forcibly told to the canning industry by Pres. Donald Henderson, testifying at the small table at the far left. THE COMMITTEE VOTED to recommend to the Wage-Hour Law Administrator THE 40c MINIMUM, peak government minimum possible under the present law. At present, canneries are bound only by the general 30c minimum. Labor members of the Committee are shown in the insert (l. to r.): Robert Tomson, AFL; Albert Bilger, AFL; Leon Schachter, AFL; Mildred Voy, Chief Shop Steward of UCAPAWA Local 58 at Gielow's, Detroit; Anthony Valentino, Pres. Local 80 at Campbell Soup, etc., Camden, N. J.; Donald Henderson, UCAPAWA Pres. who testified before the Committee; Harold J. Lane, UCAPAWA Secy. Treas.; Mrs. Earl Tise, Pres. UCAPAWA Local 102 at Marshall Canning in Sugarland, Texas; Walter Jones, AFL; and Joseph Carfero, Pres. UCAPAWA Local 47 at Libby, McNeill and Libby, Blue Island, Ill. Boris Shishkin of the AFL is not in the picture. Story on page 3.

FISH CANNING AND SEAFOOD DIVISION

Quick WLB Decision Is Key To Big 1943 Alaska Salmon Pack

By A. E. Harding, Local 7 Business Agent and Int. Rep.

Seattle—With certification to the WLB Pacific Coast Regional Board of the Alaska Canned Salmon Industry case involving 14 unions, UCAPAWA's intensive work to meet the manpower needs for the 1943 season has progressed. Since negotiations opened in January, UCAPAWA has moved heaven and earth for speedy and favorable settlement of the war bonus and wage questions, so that no uncertainties will hamper the difficult job of manning the canneries this year.

240,000,000 Cans at Stake

Issue at stake is production of some 240,000,000 cans of strength-giving salmon for the Armed Forces. With the Pacific War Zone touching on Western Alaska, this work will be done close to the noses of the Japanese.

(Because of the war, we are not printing employment figures and dates.)

Questions to be decided by the WLB are:

1. Wage increases of about 10% in conformity with the contract provision calling for wage increases to keep up with the Seattle cost of living figure. This cannot be put into effect without WLB approval.

Need War Protection

2. War bonus of 20% while working in canneries and in transit on Inside Passage to Alaska; and of 100% while in transit west of Cape Spencer, Alaska or Cape Flattery, Washington.

3. War Risk Insurance of $5,000 in case of death or injury, and of $150 on personal effects.

Points 2 and 3 are in dispute, since the industry did not agree to the UCAPAWA demands. Under the industry wide contract signed in 1942 for the duration, these three issues can be opened for negotiation each year.

Unions Act Together

For the first time in the history of the industry, all major unions involved presented uniform demands and conducted joint negotiations: UCAPAWA, Alaska Fishermen's Union; Copper River and Prince William Sound Fishermen's Union; American Communications Assn.; Machinists' Union; and Shipwrights and Joiners, the last two AFL affiliates. Fishermen's demands were different in detail since many of them are paid on a piece work basis.

For UCAPAWA all negotiations and chief contacts with government agencies have been conducted by officers of Local 7 in Seattle, in behalf of all UCAPAWA salmon locals which are, besides Local 7: Local 5 in San Francisco; Local 226 in Portland, Oregon; Southeastern Alaskan Locals 222, 237, 263 and 269; Bristol Bay, Alaska Local 10; and Alaska Peninsula and Cook Inlet Local 264. International Executive Vice-Pres. Conrad Espe has held up the Washington, D.C. end.

As the result of work by the War Production Board, charged with the job of concentrating the industry, operations should be carried on at peak efficiency with full use of all available equipment.

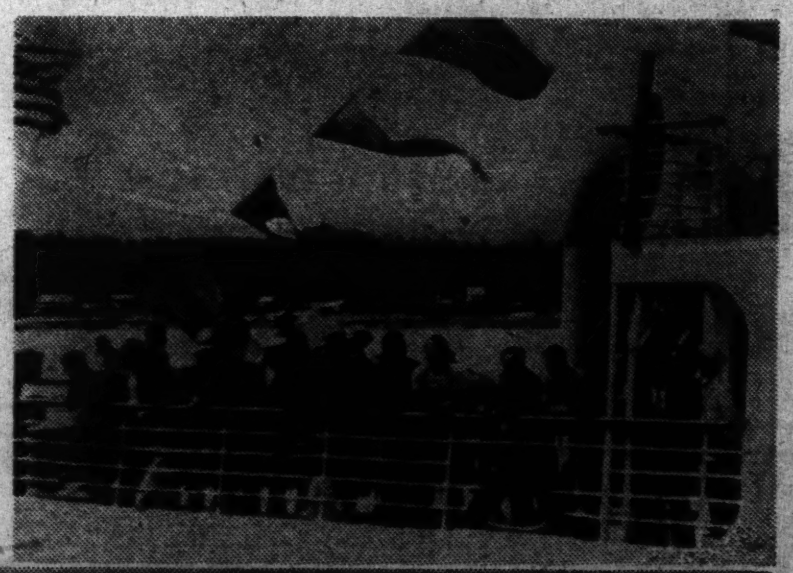
UCAPAWA Seeks Manpower

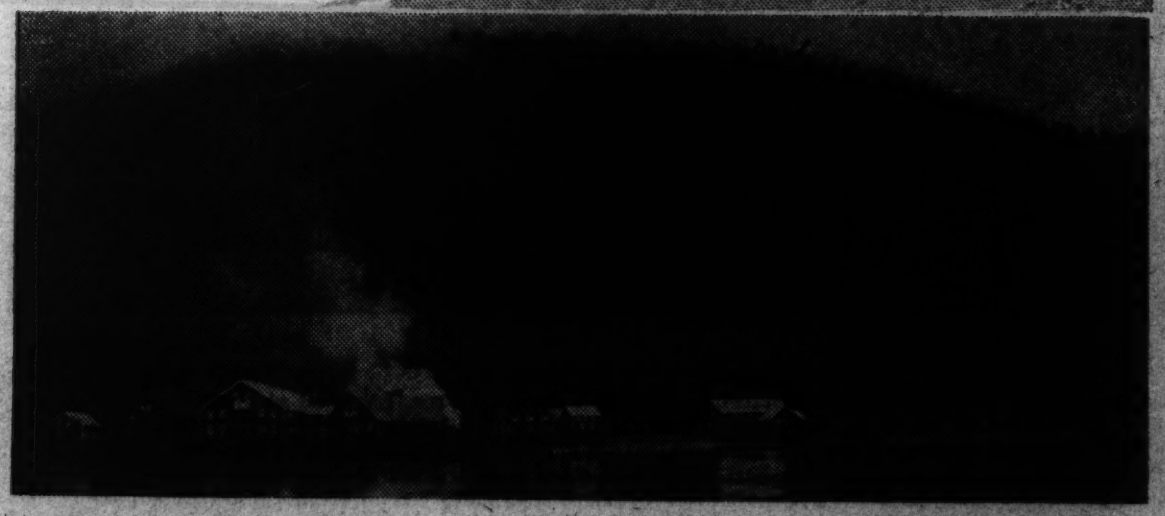
But UCAPAWA is concerned with the seriousness of getting enough people to man the canneries.

In addition to the many experienced cannery workers now in the Armed Forces, it is estimated that over 1,000 are working in war industries such as shipyards and Navy yards. Others are working as longshoremen at the Port of Embarkation, on Army transports and in "frozen" industries such as lumber.

Local 7 is organizing an intensive recruiting campaign in California where, in addition to war industries, many experienced cannery workers are engaged in agriculture.

UCAPAWA has requested that the Industry pay the transportation of cannery workers from California to the port of embarkation in the Northwest. No workers will ship out from San Francisco.





SALMON CANNING scenes in Alaska: At right, a boat load of workers pulling in from Seattle. Residents of Alaska also work in the canneries. Below, a cannery. UCAPAWA has an industry-wide closed shop contract.

Local 7 Jap-Americans Pile Eagerly Into Army

Hunt, Idaho—Former members of Local 7, Seattle Alaska Canned Salmon local, were among the first to volunteer for the U. S. Army when the War Department again allowed Japanese-Americans to enlist starting a month or so ago, according to Dyke Miyagawa, former Local 7 Executive Board member who is in the Relocation Center here following evacuation from the West Coast.

Explaining that Uncle Sam is to train a special Japanese-American combat unit, Bro. Miyagawa reports that "the response here has been splendid—and no one can say henceforth that we are lacking in loyalty."

Miyagawa Writes to You

Here is Miyagawa's report to fellow UCAPAWA members:

"The War Department decided a month ago to reopen the door to military service for us Japanese-Americans.

"Some 5,000 Americans with Japanese faces are already in Uncle Sam's Army (many of them from Local 7 in Seattle), having been inducted before the government closed the draft for us upon evacuation from the West Coast.

"Now the authorities have announced plans for the establishment of a special American-Japanese combat unit to be trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and have invited us to volunteer. The response here has been splendid—and no one can say henceforth that we are lacking in loyalty.

"I am not authorized to release the number of volunteers, but I know most of the boys and can say without hesitation that ex-UCAPAWA Local 7 members were among the first to signify their eagerness to participate in overseas duty against Hitler's fascist armies."

1943 GREETINGS FROM SOUTH AFRICA have just reached UCAPAWA, sent by the Food and Canning Workers' Union there. It took almost three months for the card to reach Philadelphia. Leave it to UCAPAWA members to get Christmas cards from 7,000 miles away!

Soup Contracts Improve Seniority, Job Rates, etc.

By Anthony Valentino, Pres.

Camden, N. J. — The renewed contract between Local 80 and Campbell's Soup here was signed March 15, following approval by a general membership meeting.

While such issues as a general wage increase and Union Security are to go to the War Labor Board for decision, concessions won in the contract improve many conditions which had long been headaches in the plant. Briefly summarized, these gains are:

1. Maximum time in which new workers must be boosted from hiring rates—after 30 days for regular workers, after six days for seasonal.

2. Guarantee of base rate.

3. Hiring rates increased as follows:

Women and boys: from 51½c to 55½ per hour.

Men: from 63½c to 66½c per hour.

Right to Work 6 Days

5. Employees working five days a week will be given 6 days per week work. Employees's reduction in pay because of Executive Order 9240 shall be permitted to work six days.

6. Christmas holiday with pay shifted to Thanksgiving, since Christmas this year falls on Saturday. Time and one-half on Labor Day if worked.

7. Maintenance workers may request a re-rating in between the regular six month re-rating period.

8. Preparatory women shall be seated according to department seniority, with the exception of three tables.

9. The person with the highest department seniority shall be given first preference on higher paid jobs.

Emergency Grievances

10. Stewards shall have the right to take up emergency grievances immediately. Formerly, foremen were the sole judges of what was "emergency."

11. Minimum of 79½ for pushers, an increase of 4c.

12. Women instructors in tomato season to get 67c, an increase of 4c.

Points 3, 4, 11 and 12 must be approved by the WLB before going into effect.

Going before the WLB for final and binding decision are the questions of:

1. 10c an hour increase.
2. Union security.
3. Equalization of rates for mechanics and power house employees.
4. An additional increase for refrigerator employees.
5. Retroactivity of any increases granted.

Members of the Local 80 Negotiating Committee are: Anthony Valentino, Pres.; Carmen Parente, Chief Shop Steward; Herbert Kling, Treas.; Rose Ripoli, Steward; Sylvia Neff, Secy.; George Dance, Steward, and John Juditz, Secy., Stewards' Council.

By Jack Fox, Int. Rep.

Chicago — Campbell Soup Company and Local 194 signed an agreement here on March 16, after two and one-half months of negotiations, which provided for gains in seniority system, grievance procedure, paid holiday, and general improvements on the wage incentive plan.

Bids For Promotions

Under the new agreement, workers will have the opportunity to bid for jobs in accordance with seniority. Grievance procedure was further strengthened with an arbitration clause in which unsettled grievances can be taken to the government for final senttlement. The shop steward was also given the privilege of calling emergency grievances. Grievance time was established for each grievance step so that it will be impossible for the company to stall on the taking up of grievances.

Workers who would lose out by the executive order of the President will be given 6 days per week work. Christmas holiday was established as a paid holiday even if the workers did not work.

Major gains were made in the wage incentive plan in which the chronic grievance of wage cutting was ended, by the company and the union signing the agreement which makes it impossible for the company to cut wage scales for failure of a worker to make "normal" days work.

A clause was inserted in the new agreement which would establish once and for all the fact of equal pay for equal work for women who take over men's jobs.

In accordance with the Provisions of the Executive Order of the President of the U. S. A. (9240) double time will be paid for all work performed on the seventh consecutive day. This order was written into the present agreement.

The duration of the agreement clause provides for the contract to expire in December 1944. The wage section may be opened at any time each year between October and February 1.

Seek Union Security

The issue of union security, foremost in the minds of the workers will go to the war Labor Board for settlement. Wage increases and retroactive pay will also be brought in front of the WLB. The union hopes that its case will be reviewed jointly with that of its sister Local 80 in Camden, N. J.

Members of the negotiating committe are: John Gallagher, Pres.; Clifton Clay and James Horn, Vice-Presidents; Anne Surna, Fin. Sec.; Frank White, Ass't Chief Steward; John Jurgeson, Treas.; Verna Gillan, Steward; David Amendola, former Pres. and Steward. In addition to the International Officers, Jack Fox, Int. Rep. assisted in negotiations.

Pres. Donald Henderson, Exe. Vice-Pres. Conrad Espe and Secy-Treas. Harold J. Lane assisted at various times in negotiations. First Campbell Soup contracts were won in 1941. See page 1 story.

Local 194 Wins First "E"

Chicago — Workers at the Campbell Soup plant here will be presented through Local 194 with the Army-Navy "E" for efficiency and extra effort in getting out the government orders before schedule.

At the official ceremony, Pres. John Gallagher, and Vice-Presidents Clifton Clay and James Horn will accept the Army flag for the workers. The membership is proud of this achievement, according to Int. Rep. Jack Fox, and feel that they have done a real job in carrying out the UCAPAWA-CIO program of "Food for Victory."

Note: To the best of our knowledge, this is the first UCAPAWA local to win the "E" award.

Congress Votes Labor Freeze

Washington—If Congress on March 18 had passed bills saying that all factory workers would be henceforth deferred from the draft, that they could not move out of the County without written permission of the Chamber of Commerce, and that the Government cannot fix minimum wages, working or living conditions for factory workers it recruits, the country would be in an uproar.

That is exactly what Congress has started to legislate for farm workers.

The Bankhead-Johnson Bill which passed the Senate, gives the local draft boards power to defer all essential farm labor. Virtually all crops have been declared "essential."

A worker wanting to take another job would have to get permission from his draft board. Any sharecropper, for example, knows that the local board's answer would be NO.

Curbs Help to Farmers

The so-called Farm Mobilization Bill (House Joint Res. 96) which started out all right as a $65,000,000 appropriation for the FSA to train and transfer farm workers to shortage areas, guaranteeing minimum wages, etc., ended up when the Farm Bloc got done with it in the House as a bill for $26,000,000 for the reactionary Extension Services to recruit labor locally. It expressly forbids the setting of minimum conditions for labor so recruited.

Opponents in Congress made it clear that these bills are attempts by cotton planters to hang on to low-paid labor to sweat at turning out profitable (to planters) but surplus (to us) cotton.

YOU can help stop this. Turn to page 5.

Unions Cry: "2nd Front"

By Federated Press

A demand for a spring invasion of Europe is being voiced by workers throughout the U. S. in messages, resolutions and editorials urging Pres. Roosevelt to carry out the Casablanca decision for an immediate, large scale offensive against the Axis.

Union of 800,000 Speaks

Spearheading the drive are two of its largest unions. A statement by the general executive board of the United Auto Workers (CIO), largest in the western hemisphere with some 800,000 members, declared:

"To bring Hitler and his Japanese allies to quick disaster, this international union considers it absolutely imperative that the decisions of the recent Casablanca conference be immediately carried out.

"Now, with Hitler staggering under the blows of our Soviet ally, invasion of Europe to bring about the unconditional surrender of the Axis is imperative. Defeat for the Axis in 1943 is the battle cry . . ."

A statement supporting "the people's call for a military offensive on the continent of Europe" was issued by the general executive board of the United Electrical Workers, third largest CIO union, speaking for 435,000 members.

The UE warned that the "appeasers and friends of a negotiated peace are sabotaging the domestic and military war effort" and called for a nation-wide series of town hall meetings.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION

Gov't Committee Asks 40c Minimum

New York City—UCAPAWA's long campaign to boost the legal minimum wage for cannery workers neared success as the Wage-Hour Industry Committee voted here March 17 to recommend that the Administrator set a 40c minimum for the fruit and vegetable canning and related products industry. The Administrator will hold a formal hearing before the 40c order can be issued.

Establishment of a 40c minimum will help to assure production of food for victory, according to UCAPAWA testimony before the Committee.

Under the Wage-Hour law, an Industry Committee may recommend that the general 30c minimum be raised for an industry, providing employment will not thereby be curtailed; but a Committee cannot suggest a figure higher than 40c.

"About Time," We Say

Pres. Donald Henderson in testifying for UCAPAWA showed that the 40c legal minimum for cannery workers was long overdue and that especially now with the industry booming, raising of wages in low wage canneries would not possibly cut employment.

Henderson went further and warned that if the lowest wages are not raised, actually employment will drop since people will not work for such low wages when higher wage jobs are available. Such a situation endangers Food for Victory production, said Henderson.

With the Government on record for ironing out inequalities in wages and for wiping out those which are sub-standard, as part of the war wage stabilization policy, Henderson pointed out to the Committee that their action in pressing for the 40c would be directly in line with the war effort.

The final Committee vote was 27 to 3 in favor of the recommendation.

Curbs Worst Competition

Upwards of 300,000 workers will be affected when the 40c goes into effect, according to estimates by Sec. Treas. Harold J. Lane who was a member of the Committee. "Few of our members will be directly affected," said Lane, "since UCAPAWA minimums are well above 40c already in virtually all contracts. But every UCAPAWA cannery worker will be relieved that at long last the most extreme low wage competitive pressure is to be removed."

The Committee was comprised of 10 members representing labor, 10 representing employers and 10 from the public. Chairman of the Committee was Msgr. Francis J. Haas, Dean of the School of Social Science, Catholic University, Washington, D.C.

UCAPAWA Delegation

UCAPAWA representatives on the Committee were: Mildred Voy of Local 58; Anthony Valentino, Local 80; Harold J. Lane, Int. Sec. Treas.; Mrs. Earl Tise, Local 102; and Joseph Carfero, Local 47.

Ever since the Wage Hour law was passed in 1938, UCAPAWA has been pressing for establishment of the cannery Industry Committee, a campaign which was stepped up following the National Convention last October.

The 40c minimum will cover canned and dried fruits and vegetables; pickles; preserves; jams and jellies; and related products such as peanut butter, and stew and hash containing vegetables. The fast-expanding dehydrating and frozen foods industries are also covered.

(Picture on Page 1)

Campbell Soup Local 194 To Fight Discrimination

Chicago—Under the leadership of Vice-Pres. Clifton Clay, Local 194's newly established Fair Employment Practices Committee, composed of both Negro and white members, is getting on the tail of discrimination in hiring at the Campbell Soup plant here.

The Committee is at present gathering the facts on discrimination in the hiring of Negro women, for a possible case before the U. S. Employment Practices Committee.

The Committee cooperates with various civic organizations, including the Metropolitan League and the Urban League.

LOCAL 3 PRODUCES 120 WORKERS AND PLENTY OF VIM AND VIGOR FOR THE CAL-SAN SPINACH PACK.

By Elmo Parra, Business Agent

Los Angeles—When Local 3 says "spinach for Victory" we mean it. Some three weeks before the spinach pack started, the California Sanitary Packing Co. with which we have a Union Shop contract called on us for 120 workers. Today there are 200 workers on the job at Cal San packing Pop Eye's favorite food for the Armed forces and for lend lease shipments.

When we started on the job of signing up workers we found some among our members at the Walnut plant who were due to leave there soon. We asked them, in turn, if they had friends looking for work. At the same time, we launched a drive for Negro workers. And bit by bit, we got the workers together.

"Realizing the shortage of manpower," commented Chief Women's Steward Minnie Willingham, "we women rolled our sleeves a bit further up and are taking men's jobs. We simply made up our minds that by doing this tougher work we could give the Axis a dandy punch in the nose."

"Ours is a job of Food for Victory—it's surely important to supply our boys and the boys of the United Nations with plenty of good canned spinach," is the slant of Chief Steward Frank Montecalvo.

The Negro workers, now numbering about 25%, are being welcomed into the union ranks by one of UCAPAWA's biggest Food for Victory Locals.

In the center front of this group of spinach workers are (l. to r.): Parra—wearing a coat and a smile, Willingham, and Montevalvo.

Speak Up!

Here is a letter which we hope will be the first of many coming from the members. They will be printed in "Speak Up," carrying the opinions of the writers. If you should not agree with any of these opinions, you can write YOUR two cents worth to the News.

I've a few things I want to get off my chest.

Let's Free Clarich

First, I'm terribly sorry to have neglected Mrs. Clarich so terribly much, but due to all the trouble and disturbance here it slipped my mind, but here is a check for $15. I hope in a small way this will help.

But it isn't helping him rotting away in a lousy jail. Why don't these UCAPAWA Locals write in an appeal to the U. S. President and ask for a rehearing at least. We owe everything we have achieved to men like him.

Sick of Steel Formula

This is the way I feel and probably many others feel the same. I'm sick of hearing "Little Steel" formula. Wake up, you union people. They have done a good job of tying us up so we can't strike, call stoppage or hold up production in any way without losing our jobs.

But on the other hand this L.S.F. was set up away back when. The cost of living has risen and keeps rising.

The ceiling price? Oh, yes, "the sky's the limit." Maybe there will be a ceiling price some day, though it's rather far-fetched.

Hold the Home Front

I'm patriotic, too, believe it or not. I have two nephews, one G. E. Goldsberry, U.S.S. Portland off San Francisco and Robert Joe Goldsberry, I know not where. Neither is yet 21 years old, have been in over a year, each.

You may say, what does this have to do with it. Just this. It's for these boys and millions like them coming back we must have adequate wages so when they return it won't be jobs paying 10c-15c an hour for them, but decent wages.

At least we should keep up the morale on the home front — it's our duty.

As far as I'm concerned the Lit-the Steel Formula is a bit old-fashioned. Perhaps good, but it needs revising a bit, don't you think?

Got Dies' Number

Now just a word on the "Dies" activity. We were informed by our Representative that we had been misinformed of the Dies Committee activity. I feel that he was trying to save his own face.

I think we know what kind of work this Committee has done. We are dealing with the bare facts.

Ruby Wilson, Pres.,
Local 32 at Frazier Canning,
Elwood, Indiana.

LET 'EM EAT COTTON!

IF YOU look long and hard enough at the food situation in the U. S. A. today, you end up rubbing your eyes, wondering if you are Alice in Wonderland—if it just can be true.

Here we are in the midst of a war, a desperate war for survival. You are hard at work turning out canned spinach, or Army rations, or cotton seed oil, or smokes to steady the nerves of those on the home front and the fighting front.

Your neighbor is putting in gruelling hours in the airplane plant in your town. Your brother who owns a farm a few miles out of town is doing the best he can, what with no one now to help with the milking, since his Fred joined up.

Then at the store Saturday night you find that it takes a good bit of figuring to make out—you cannot get everything you want, and prices have gone up, even over last week.

A lot of Americans figure that this is all part of the war—that it is part of fate, like death and taxes. But you are a UCAPAWA member, and go below the surface of things.

Criminal Failure

YOU know that, to be sure, some hardship, some going without all the butter you could use is one of the prices we pay for victory in our war for fredom.

What alarms us is that behind these growing shortages is the criminal failure to plan to get every bit of food which we can for our boys, our fighting allies, and for our own home front.

In the midst of a desperate war for survival in which food is a major weapon, we do not even take steps to organize every resource at hand to ring out

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every possible nourishing bit of meat.

As Philip Murray said "Agriculture remains the last great industry unconverted to a wartime basis."

"When manufacturers failed or refused to convert from civilian products to war materials, tremendous pressure was put on them, generated by the CIO, and in time, conversion was achieved," points out C. W. Fowler in his "Farm for Victory—Or Starve" article in the CIO News. "The auto plants started putting out war weapons, refrigerator plants, radio plants, electrical plants, steel mills were brought into line."

This is the job we have to do in agriculture. What are we up against?

Big Shots to Blame

THE job would be fairly simple if we merely had to pursuade a bunch of misguided people who had failed to see the point. But unfortunately, a lot of people are making money out of farming-as-usual, and it is even suspected that some people who are monkeying around with unconverted-to-war agriculture deep down in their hearts are not too eager to see America rise up in her might to help sweep Fascism off the face of the earth.

After all, think such people (even if they know it would not be good for their health to say it out loud to the American people) Fascism does have some good points—it puts unions in their place, keeps profits rolling in and what about the "Communist menace?"

People of this pattern are not just a few inconsequential screw-balls — they are powerful. And they have powerful friends—including the Farm bloc in Congress.

What is the farm bloc doing on the food front?

Monopoly Prices

1. On prices it is boosting them as fast as possible—"raise every price in sight if we can get away with it," say they. No matter if it costs food buyers $4,000,000,000. No matter if the price rises do not make for more production.

Speaking for the working farmers, James G. Patton, Pres. of the Farmers Union, says "the present farm price level is about right to help production . . . it must be stabilized at the present level."

So why do the few big commercial farmers want higher prices? Because they make money.

What the average farmer needs is loans, pooling of machinery, help in getting labor, subsidies if need be, so that he with his higher costs can afford to produce at present prices. Unlike the huge outfit, the little farmer does not have the economies of large scale production.

But the Farm Bloc is fast knocking the Farm Security Administration for a loop, the one agency which gave the honest-to-goodness overall farmer some of the help he needs.

Hoard Labor

2. On manpower, this is the Farm Bloc program:

Defer farm labor from the draft. Never mind if this means taking more people out of industry, where the workers are already straining to get out the finished products. Never mind if this clips the wings of our growing Army—after all, the war can wait (like Hitler and Hirohito wait, have you noticed?).

Pay no attention, says the Farm Bloc, how these farm workers are now occupied. No matter if they are tied down to part-time jobs at miserable pay on a cotton plantation. We'll see to it that the local draft board does not release them, that the FSA does not train them for other jobs, does not move them on to a dairy farm which just cannot keep going without more help.

(UCAPAWA's Food for Victory Program pointed out that cotton production uses up more than 2,000,000 farm workers and operators, more than 2,000,000 tons of fertilizer, over 21% of all manhous spent on farming in this country, that there is already a two-year supply of short staple cotton on hand. Yet the cotton quota has just been upped 10% for 1943.)

The Farm Bloc does not intend to let cotton seed oil mill workers—at least some of them—get their hands on much peanut oil, etc., or to let compress workers handle stuff that will go into the blood and bone of those boys who are telling off the fascist oppressors of people.

Flimsy Excuses

SENATOR KILGORE when he was putting up a stiff fight against the Farm Bloc's farm deferment bill said, "I have frequently been told that we must grow short staple cotton and plenty of it, in order to obtain the necessary vegetable oil from the cotton seed.

"It is strange, but it takes more acreage to produce oil from cotton than any other oil crop which is oil producing"—2½ to over 3 times as much—and he quoted exact figures.

On man-hours, the story is even more startling according to Sen. Kilgore's figures. The production of a hundred pounds of oil from a cotton field requires 132 man-hours. The same amount of oil from soybean fields, 6½ hours, peanuts, 27 man-hours and flax, 5 man-hours.

The cotton planter, compress operators and other agricultural interests in the South, moreover, are using the Bankhead-Johnson Bill as a "work or fight" measure to freeze "their" workers on low-paying jobs. They do not want these workers to find better-paying jobs.

They prefer to stand in the way of the war effort, preventing the movement of labor from areas of surplus to areas of shortage. They do not want workers moving to areas where poll taxes, lynch law and Jim-Crow do not rule.

But the picture is clear—even if all the multitudes of examples and facts and figures have not been mentioned here. Cotton is only one of many examples.

It is not hard to understand why the Farm Bloc opposes planning agriculture. Under even the most primitive plans, the worst of this anti-food-for-victory shenanigans would be stopped.

Farmers Sore

AND it isn't only labor that is getting plenty mad about it. Take this story about farmers (not the

CIO NEWS.

Farm Bloc Banker-in-Overall type), from the Federated Press of March 23:

BLOOMINGTON, ILL—Reps. Everett M. Dirksen and Leslie C. Arends, Illinois Republicans, were advised by the Daily Pantagraph, best known farm paper in the state, to "come home and find out what farmers in this section think about the Farm Security Administration labor program.

Pointing out that local farmers had obtained "first class" help through the FSA program and were "clamoring for more," the newspaper editorial charged that the two congressmen are "doing the farmers a disservice by accepting the Farm Bureau lobby line without inquiring among the farmers of Illinois."

Both congressmen have accused the FSA of letting "social reform" interfere with its labor program.

"It is the rich, southern plantation owners," the editorial continues, "who have reason to oppose the FSA program, not the corn belt farmer. These great land owners have always had a plentiful supply of cheap labor on hand and naturally they want to keep it . . .

"The mystery is not why the southerners fear the FSA but why Illinois representatives should fight for plantation owners contrary to the interests of their own farmers."

Hoover Spills the Beans

IT IS no accident that the "Let 'Em Eat Cotton" boys sat down to a banquet at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria in New York, thrown by the National Association of Manufacturers and hear Herbert Hoover call for furlough from the Army of 1,000,000 boys as the "solution" of our food problem.

It is no accident that this same Hoover, called in as a food authority, told a Senate Sub-Committee that we needn't bother to sweat about winning the war too soon, that "time runs in our favor," that "the knockout blow to Germany can be delivered more certainly in 1944 than in 1943," etc., etc.

In the name of a few paltry millions of honest and common sense people in this country and throughout the world, Rep. McCormack set the great Hoover back on his heels on that one:

The Truth

"TIME is now the ally of the Axis. With Germany on the defensive and with Hitler admitting that time is his ally, as he did in his speech of the latter part of Sept., for anyone to take the position that time is our ally is to take a position in favor of a negotiated peace — of unadulterated appeasement.

"If that is what former President Hoover stands for, why does he not say so—frankly state to the American people that he stands for a negotiated peace — instead of using deceptive words to hide his true thoughts."

"In Russia, time is the ally of the Nazi. The Russians are not letting them use time as an ally . . .

"The United Nations have only started. We have wrested the offensive from the enemy.

"The United Nations have agreed that there shall be no appeasement, no compromise peace.

"We now witness former President Hoover again giving us advice — which sounds nice and pleasant, tends to lull us to sleep and inaction and is the same kind of advice he gave before Pearl Harbor, but which, if we follow it, would produce results disadvantageous to the best interests of our country.

"The leadership of President Roosevelt is the road to victory."

In short, the Alice in Wonderland of food production makes plenty of sense, in terms of these enemies of the people who have so much power.

And it is safe to predict that the American people are not going to allow themselves to be left sitting in that "Wonderland" quietly sucking a piece of cotton. After all, we have a war to win and a good life to live.

UCAPAWA News

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Action on UCAPAWA Food Program

THE next few weeks are of great importance in putting across our Food for Victory Program. There are two reasons why we have to ACT FAST:

OFFICIAL
Act on these matters NOW. Don't wait for a telegram or letter from the National Office.

All over the country, crops are being planted—unessential crops like short staple cotton and essential crops like vegetables for canning, soy beans. These crops are our raw materials for war food production. They are the raw materials for the UCAPAWA workers in food processing plants. Unless the right crops are planted, farmers, agricultural workers and food processing workers will not be able to contribute what they should to the Food for Victory Program.

Day in and day out Congress is discussing and acting on bills which have to do with food. The Farm Bloc is busy manufacturing bills to wreck price control and Stabilization. This is what the Bankhead Bill, the Steagall Bill (HR 1698) and the Pace Bill (HR 1408) do. The Farm bloc is also brazenly disrupting production by cutting the appropriation for mobilizing farm workers to get in the crops and by forbidding any safeguards of wage and living standards for these essential workers who live under the worst conditions in the country (House Joint Res. 96).

The following Program of Action will let Washington know that you want a Food for Victory Program and immediate action to make cost of living stabilization work.

WHAT TO DO

1. Write a letter to your Congressman telling our position on Food for Victory and urging his action in support of it. Your letter can go something like this:

UCAPAWA LOCAL LETTER

Honorable _____
House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman _____:

The membership of Local _____ UCAPAWA engaged in the production (or processing) of vital foods is concerned over the failure thus far to convert our food production program to a war footing. We feel that this failure is due to the actions of the so-called "Farm Bloc" which has supported measures to raise prices to the consumer but has never supported a measure needed by the working farmer. We urge that you use your vote and your influence to accomplish conversion of agriculture before it is too late.

We urge that you

1. Support a program of cutting unessential crops and increasing production of essential foods which are needed by the U. S. and its allies. Crops like cotton and tobacco, of which there is already a surplus, should be curtailed. Fertilizer, machinery and precious manpower should not be wasted on crops we don't need.

2. Support incentive payments to farmers to get production of what we need; support credit for small farmers so that they can produce; support cheap feed for livestock so that we can get more milk and meat production.

3. Support adequate appropriations for a Farm Labor Mobilization and training program. The full $65,000,000 should be restored to H.J. Res 96 and FSA should be allowed to continue its job of transporting workers where they are needed, on an expanded scale. All safeguards on housing and wages should be retained.

4. Oppose the Bankhead-Johnson Bill to freeze all labor on farms (S 729). This bill would prevent conversion of agriculture, cripple war industries and our army.

5. Oppose the Bankhead Bill (S 660), the Steagall Bill (HR 1698) and the Pace Bill (RH 1408), as well as any similar legislation whose object it is to obstruct price control.

In asking your action on these matters we repeat our pledge of support to the working, producing farmers of the United States and to the measures which will aid him to produce food for the war.

Yours sincerely,

Guide to Political Action

"THIS COUNTRY WITH ITS INSTITUTIONS BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE WHO INHABIT IT..." —LINCOLN

2. Wire President Roosevelt asking that he veto the Pace, Bankhead and Steagall bills if they pass both houses of Congress, of which there is great danger. Write the President at greater length about other aspects of our food program after you have sent the wire.

3. Send a copy of the letter to your Congressman to the International office. We will send copies to all government officials on whom pressure should be put to convert agriculture, keep the lid on prices, and establish rationing.

Tax Bill

Has your Political Action Committee written your Congressman demanding a win-the-war tax bill? Have you taken time out in your local meeting to have every member write a card or a letter? ACTION: Do this at your next meeting if you have not yet done so. There is still time to tell Congress we are

1. Against the Ruml plan but in favor of a pay as you go tax system which would cancel taxes on the first $2,000 of taxable income in 1942.
2. In favor of increased exemptions: $800 for single persons, $1,500 for married persons, $400 for each dependent.
3. For repeal of the Victory tax which soaks the poor.
4. For a $25,000 limit on income.

Poll Tax

Support is rolling up behind Discharge Petition No. 3 to get the anti-poll tax bill on the floor of Congress. This is one case where we can take a lesson in unity from Congress. The coalition backing HR 7 is a fine example of unity and it is putting up a good fight and with labor's support it has already got a good number of names on the discharge petition. But there are still over 100 to go, to make 218. **ACTION: Keep After your Congressman to sign the Discharge Petition.**

CIO Blasts Farm Bloc: Calls for Conversion Of Agriculture to War

STATEMENT OF PRES. PHILIP MURRAY

"We are running short of food. Black markets, empty shelves and exorbitant prices are a warning of what is ahead unless prompt action is taken. Military and lend-lease needs continue to grow larger while, as Mr. Wickard recently reported, the food situation continues to grow worse.

"Our food production goals are too low. Agriculture remains the last great industry unconverted to a wartime basis. The individual farmers of America are no more to blame for this developing food crisis than the city worker who cannot buy meat or butter. The farmer is himself the victim and Adolph Hitler is the chief beneficiary.

"CIO endorses and pledges its full support to the National Farmers Union program of necessary and practical aid to farmers in getting the food produced. It calls for a one billion dollar government credit to put more than a million farmers in shape to make full use of their land and manpower. It proposes pooling of farm labor and machinery and other steps geared directly to the wartime problems which farmers face.

CONGRESS OBSTRUCTS; TIME IS SHORT

"The time is late; farmers are already planning their 1943 operations. Even so it is possible to achieve a large increase in total food production if only quick and effective action is taken.

"While farmers out in the country wait for the assistance they desperately need, a Congressional group which calls itself the 'farm' bloc delays action. It has been standing in the way of full farm production and opposing all efforts to convert agriculture to a wartime basis. For two years it argued that there was no need to increase farm output, despite growing war demands; now it baldly seeks to pass the buck and to blame others for the food shortages that are menacing the country. Meanwhile, the farm block continues to oppose every measure that would give real help to the farmers.

"In addition to the need for increase in total farm output, there is also the problem of shifting productive resources from less essential to more essential crops. At least one-third of our farm labor and farm resources are being used to produce crops non-essential to the war and should be shifted to vital war crops. We now have on hand a two-year supply of short staple cotton and tobacco, yet we are increasing instead of decreasing production of these crops in 1943. So far only one per cent of our farm output has been declared unessential.

UCAPAWA: "MOBILIZE LABOR"

"The CIO is fully aware of the labor shortage which confronts agriculture just as it confronts many important war industries. The United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers, the CIO union of workers engaged in producing and processing of agricultural products, points out that the labor problem must be met in agriculture just as it is being met in other war industries.

"One-third of the farm workers, those now engaged in production of non-essential crops, must be shifted into essential production. An effective recruiting and labor placement service must be established for agriculture and the drain of farm labor into urban industry must be checked by raising and stabilizing farm wages, if necessary, by means of wage subsidies to farmers.

"A mobile corps of experienced seasonal agricultural workers should be set up immediately to provide for this year's crop needs. In addition adequate training programs must be provided to supply skilled, year-round workers. Finally, the CIO offers full cooperation for the mobilization of volunteers to meet peak needs for labor in perishable crops. Such mobilization must be on the basis of real needs, not pressure from factories in the field desirous of attracting a large supply of cheap labor solely for the purpose of beating down local wages.

FARMERS' UNION WANTS STABLE PRICES

"Inflation will be ruinous to the farmers as well as to labor and the entire war effort. The rank and file of American farmers are well aware of this and are not campaigning for higher prices.

"'The present farm price level is about right to help production—neither too high nor too low,' states President James G. Patton of the National Farmers Union. Prices must be stabilized at the present level. But within the list of farm prices, adjustments downward and upward are necessary in order to get the kinds and quantities of foods and fibers most needed."

American Women

The Fight for the Vote Started Back in 1840— And for the Right of a Woman to Keep Her Wages; Fannie Wright Demanded Free Nursery Schools

PART 2

● **To the many UCAPAWA women who have helped build our Union, the story of militant women fighting for democracy throughout American history is an inspiration. Like our ancestors, we have increasing responsibility as leaders during wartime as the men go off to the front lines.**

In Part 1 of our story of American Women, we saw how women helped win the American Revolution, and how both Southern women, such as the Grimpky sisters and Northerns, such as Prudence Crandal and Harriet Beecher Stowe—to say nothing of the escaped slave, Harriet Tubman—jumped into the anti-slavery fight with both feet.

All along, women have had to battle for their own rights—starting way back when by law they did not even have the right to keep the wages they earned. (Today we still have much of the battle for equal pay for women on our hands.)

Fight for women's rights is intertwined with the winning of all democratic liberties. In Part 2, we read about the women's rights movement in the early days, as told by Dr. Philip Foner, outstanding historian. (These talks, reported by Katherine Beecher, are loaned to us by the UE NEWS.)

FIGHT FOR RIGHTS

"THE RIGHT of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States" or by any State on account of sex.—19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, adopted by Congress on Aug. 26, 1920.

This amendment to our constitution, giving women the right to vote, was first introduced in Congress in 1868. The long struggle of women to win this right began back in 1840 as part of the anti-slavery fight.

While this was the most important right women were fighting for as citizens, other rights which they fought for and gradually won included: the right of divorce, the right to inherit property, the right to receive an education, and the right to keep the wages they made if they worked.

How closely the struggle for women's rights was tied up with the role women played in the campaign to end slavery can be seen by what happened at the first world anti-slavery convention which was held in London in 1840.

Women Delegates Barred

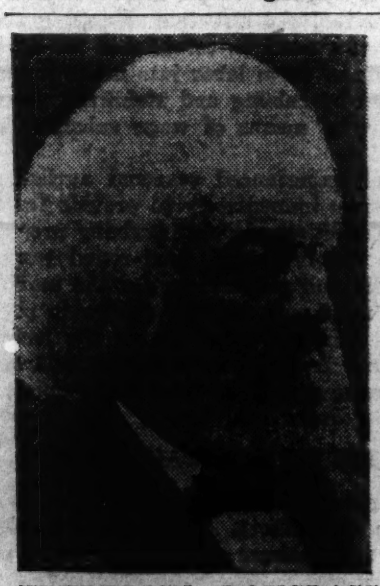
Several women delegates, including Lucretia Mott attended from the United States. When the convention opened the women delegates were barred from the convention because they were women.

As the Rev. Henry Grew of Philadelphia, one of the delegates, put it, "it would be a violation of God's ordinances to recognize female delegates."

Since there were some men present who stuck up for the women's right to be seated as delegates, a compromise was finally worked out whereby the women would be allowed to attend if they would agree to sit behind a curtain. They indignantly refused.

When the women delegates returned home they called a convention of women at Seneca Falls, N. Y., and drew up a declaration of independence on women's rights.

This convention, which was the first organized movement of the women to win their rights as citizens, drew bitter comment and criticism from the press and the clergy.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS, famous Negro leader, is an example of the men who supported the women in fighting for their rights. At the first Women's Convention in 1840, he urged them to demand the right to vote.

Called "Insurrection"

It was referred to in the press as "insurrection among women," "the reign of petticoats," etc. It was broadly hinted that only women without looks and personal charm who had been unable to get husbands had anything to do with such a movement.

One clergyman blasted the convention as a violation of the unwritten law that "women's place was destined by God to be in the home."

In the South, where women had even less recognition as citizens, one writer of the time claimed that women had but one right, the right to protection and that in order to keep it they had the duty to obey men in all things.

Not all men were opposed to rights for women. Frederick Douglass, famous Negro leader, appeared at the Seneca convention and urged the women to demand the right to vote.

Women went right ahead with their campaign, holding frequent conventions, speaking throughout the nation and raising money to carry on the work.

Greetings from French Women

At a convention held in New York in 1851 the delegates received a letter of support and encouragement from a group of French women who were in jail as a result of the heroic part they had played in the French Revolution of 1848.

The letter said in part:

"Sisters of America! We have the profound conviction that only by the power of association based on solidarity—by the union of the working clases of both sexes to organize labor—can be acquired, completely and pacifically, the civil and political equality of women and the social right for all."

Gains Made by 1860

What had women achieved by 1860?

The divorce laws had been liberalized, except in the South. Through the efforts of organized labor, women as well as men debtors were no longer imprisoned. In New York they had won the right to keep the wages they earned.

They could hold and inherit property, which meant that they now had money of their own to spend in the cause of women's rights.

And most important of all, by 1860 they were able to attend school. This right too was won by organized labor.

As a result of the demands of labor, during the period of 1830-1840 public schools came into being. Labor's slogan had been "free public schools for all," and by "all" they meant men and women too.

In view of the modern campaign to set up public nursery schools it is interesting to note that in this first campaign for public schools, Fanny Wright, one of the foremost women of her day, urged that a demand for public nursery schools be made at the same time.

ACTIVE IN CIVIL WAR

DURING the four years of the Civil War the struggle for women's rights was put into the background as the women devoted all their efforts to help win the war against slavery.

Not only did they serve as nurses, work in the factories supplying ammunition, harvest the crops and raise funds with which to buy goods, the armies needed. Many disguised as men, actually served in the Northern armies, in some cases rising to the post of lieutenant.

One woman, Anna Ella Carroll, was recognized by Congress as a military genius whose strategy was responsible for winning the battle of Tennessee.

A War for Freedom

Harriet Tubman, the famous Negro woman, because of her intimate knowledge of the back country in the South was invaluable as a leader of guerilla bands which operated behind the lines of the Confederate army.

Women also played an important role in educating the people and explaining what the war was about. Their insistence that the war be recognized as one for the freedom of the Negro slaves and their constant demand for an emancipation proclamation was recognized at the time as being largely responsible for the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Lincoln.

Sojourner Truth, a negro woman who lectured all over the North on the need of using Negro soldiers in the war, wrote a song that was widely sung by the Negroes in the Northern armies.

These are only a few instances of what women did in the war to free the slaves. The role of women in the Civil War is one of the most glorious chapters in our history when, just as today, women played a leading part in building civilian morale and explaining why the war was being fought.

CIO Blue Star Mothers Lobby In Washington

By Eleanor Fowler, Secretary-Treasurer, CIO Auxiliaries

A delegation of representatives of CIO's Blue Star Mothers spent four days in Washington early in March. They lobbied Congress. They visited heads of government departments. They were received at the embassies of the United Nations. They ended up physically exhausted and convinced that the single most important win-the-war need of the United States is an overall plan to coordinate the war work of all government agencies.

Seek Child Care

They found absenteeism the burning issue of the week in Congress—but conferences at the Children's Bureau and the Office of Education revealed that lack of coordination between these offices and the Federal Works Agency, which disburses Lanham funds, was resulting in slow progress in meeting child care needs, one of the basic causes of absenteeism.

They found that the Congresswomen—most of whom they visited—agreed that the basic causes of absenteeism were lack of the most elementary provision for the human needs of war workers, but they found no coordinated attempt being made to face the problem and to meet those needs.

Clumsy Food "Plans"

The most vivid illustration of lack of planning came when a Department of Agriculture official revealed that food production goals for this year had had to be radically revised when the North African campaign was begun. Up to that time the Department of Agriculture had been planning only to meet our home food requirements and lend lease obligations. They had [illegible] planning for an offensive war.

At the Office of Price Administration the women registered their approval of the price orders on pork and rayon hose. They urged rapid extension of rationing. They asked for simple, understandable, price ceilings which volunteers could be trained to enforce.

Prices Like Balloons

They discovered that aside from meat and soap, food price ceilings will be on a markup basis and may change every time the retailer gets a new order from the wholesaler. In fact, unless the Department of Agriculture agrees to price ceilings on farm products when they leave the farm, all food prices are going to go steadily up.

The delegation felt that nation-wide pressure on Wickard, Brown, Byrnes and Congress for a real program of price ceilings and rationing is urgently needed if the President's seven point war economic program is to mean anything.

Visit Embassies

Mrs. Faye Stephenson, president of the Congress of Women's Auxiliaries headed the national delegation which included Mrs. Eva Taylor, President of the auxiliaries of the UERMWA; Mrs. Alice Neville, treasurer of the NMU auxiliaries, Mrs. Josephine Cabral of the Transport Workers auxiliaries, and Mrs. Mary Vessey, president of the Farm Equipment auxiliaries. The visitors had tea with Lady Halifax at the British Embassy and with Madame Litvinov at the Soviet Embassy, and visited the Chinese and Mexican embassies to convey the greetings of CIO women to the women of the United Nations.

BEWARE!

The so-called "Equal Rights" Amendment to the Constitution which may be shoved into Congress would work a serious hardship on women.

It would be used to remove protective labor legislation on hours, working conditions, etc., for women, laws which labor has won over a period of years to help women get a break.

Flash!

Memphis — A decisive NLRB election victory for UCAPAWA was won March 23 at the Hollywood plant of ABRAHAM BROS. here. The workers turned in a vote of 105 to 54 in favor of LOCAL 19.

A drive to organize the Dudley plant of Abraham Bros. will be launched immediately, according to Int. Vice-Pres. Lewis Bentzley and Int. Rep. A. J. Marcus.

WLB Allows Dairy Pay Boost Over 15%

By James De Witt, Int. Rep.

Whitewater, Wisc. — Wage increases negotiated by Local 236 with the Hoards Creameries were approved March 10 by the WLB Regional Office in Chicago, according to Local 236 Pres. George West. The increases of 2½, 5 and 7½c an hour are retroactive to Oct. 11, 1942.

Although this increase was beyond the "Little Steel" formula, which allows only 15% in total raises since Jan. 1941, it was in conformity with straightening out inequalities within the industry in Wisconsin.

The five months' delay had both the workers and the company restless.

Federated Pictures

GREETINGS TO THE WOMEN OF THE UNITED NATIONS were extended by the CIO Blue Star Mothers recently in Washington. Here the CIO Women's Auxiliary delegates are at the British Embassy (l. to r.): Eva Taylor, Electrical Workers' Pres.; Alice Neville, Maritime Union Treas.; Faye Stephenson, National Pres.; Lady Halifax; and Mary Vessey, Farm Equipment Pres.

To The Workers of

ARMCO PLANTS

The Pioneer Tobacco Workers Local Union No. 55, UCAPAWA-CIO Welcomes you to the C. I. O.

Being the first C. I. O. local union chartered in Middletown, we endured a long, hard, uphill fight for over five years before we finally won out.

In order to secure the gains we received we had to take our case to the United States Supreme Court which upheld the ruling of the National Labor Relations Board, that the P. Lorillard Company had to negotiate a contract with us.

In gaining this ruling by the highest Court in our Country we have made it easier for all workers who organize and are represented by a bona-fide labor organization to secure within a short time, Union-Company negotiations for contracts.

We have helped to pave the way for you to secure job security, grievance procedure, higher wages, and better working conditions that you are justly entitled to.

We feel proud of the part we have played in the organized labor movement which the C. I. O. represents in Middletown.

We know, as well as you know, that FREE LABOR will win the war and also FREE LABOR will have a deciding voice on the peace terms when the war is won.

Therefore, we call upon each and every worker in your plant to

JOIN THE C. I. O. TODAY

YOUR UNION is the UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA, of which PHILLIP MURRAY IS PRESIDENT.

This mighty and powerful labor union is composed of over 700,000 steelworkers throughout America who are turning out the necessary steel that will defeat the Axis.

NOW IS YOUR opportunity to JOIN this important UNION. As a fellow citizen of Middletown we urge you to immediately come down to the UNION HALL, 1836 CENTRAL AVE., and JOIN up with us.

Become a brother with us and share the UNION programs throughout our City, State and Nation.

Fraternally yours,

PIONEER TOBACCO WORKERS,

Local Union No. 55, UCAPAWA - C. I. O. Middletown, Ohio

BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS—JOIN THE UNION

LENDING A HAND TO A FELLOW-CIO UNION, girls from P. Lorillard tobacco Local 55 in Middletown, Ohio, handed out this brightly printed leaflet in green and black at the Armco plant where some 3,600 steel workers are employed.

DRIED FRUIT AND NUT DIVISION

Peanut Local Wires WLB To Speed Wage Decision

Suffolk, Va.—A protest on the War Labor Board's slowness in handling the Local 26 case with four peanut Companies here was wired to Washington by Pres. Leroy Harris and Int. Rep. Harry Koger on March 18. They told the Board that:

Food Production Hurt

"Delay in decision on four Suffolk Peanut Companies causing serious bottleneck at Lummis Co. plant because of inability to hold adequate male help at present wage.

"Women forced to part time work. Other plants involved also affected. Please rush decision so that this essential production may not be further hampered."

Prominent Southerner Praises CIO

Suffolk, Va.—Peanut workers heard Miss Lucy Randolph Mason prominent Southerner, tell about the progress of the CIO in the South at a special meeting of Local 26 on March 17. Miss Mason's father was the Rev. Landon Randolph Mason of Richmond.

CIO Respected

In a talk over Station WLPM, arranged for her by Int. Rep. Harry Koger who has been acquainted with Miss Mason for a number of years, she pointed out that "the 30 national unions of the CIO operating in the South have shown themselves responsible and dependable and have won the respect of the public in the communities where they are located."

Memphis—20,000 CIO'ers

Memphis, where UCAPAWA pioneered in organization, now has 20,000 CIO members, an especially important fact, said Miss Mason, since as recently as three years ago the city administration declared they would permit no CIO activity. Since then the Mayor has addressed the CIO state Convention—one indication of CIO progress in that community.

HORTICULTURE

First Evergreen Contract Signed

Brooklyn, N. Y.—The recently organized Evergreen Cemetery has signed a contract with Local 293 which provides for union shop, vacations with pay, holidays with pay, seniority, and increases from $3 to $4.50 a week, subject to WLB approval. The Board has just okayed the same scale at Holy Cross.

UCAPAWA won the election here early in the year by a vote of 58 to 16.

TOBACCO DIVISION

CIO Licks Leaflet Ban At American Tobacco

Charleston, S. C.—A vigorous campaign led by UCAPAWA resulted in a promise from Mayor Henry Lockwood that he will cease interfering with leaflet distribution at the American Tobacco plant. Word of the Mayor's promise was received from the District Attorney by Int. Rep. Ed McCrea on March 22. On March 9 police stopped McCrea and three helpers from distributing UCAPAWA leaflets at the tobacco plant where some 1500 work, using as an excuse a city ordinance against handing out leaflets which might litter the streets.

Undoubtedly the Company, growing alarmed at the success of UCAPAWA's drive, inspired this move, according to McCrea.

United Labor Action

When the Mayor refused to reverse his position, a meeting of CIO members, attended also by a number of AFL officals, protested to him that his action was a violation of constitutional rights which have been upheld by the courts, and again asked him to back down "in the interest of the war effort and of better labor-management-government relations."

But Mayor Lockwood still harped on the spring housecleaning note claiming the issue was merely a crusade for neat and tidy streets.

Civil Rights Abused

Telegrams to the Mayor from Lee Pressman, National CIO lawyer, from the National Lawyers Guild and from the International Labor Defense urged him to cease trampling on civil liberties.

On March 19, the District Attorney appeared on the scene with orders from Washington authorities who had been informed of the situation by UCAPAWA and the CIO. Shortly thereafter McCrea received the assurance from the District Attorney that the Mayor would manage to keep the city neat without fighting UCAPAWA.

Win Union Security In Siegal Negotiations

Camden, N. J.—Siegel Cigar workers, members of Local 80 here voted on March 23 acceptance of their new maintenance of membership contract negotiated by Anthony Valentino, Local 80 Pres.; Carmen Parente, Chief Shop Steward; Anna Magee, Chairlady at Siegel's; Rose Kryminski, Delia Charles, Mary Roman, and Carrie Muchler. All terms were agreed to in negotiations making it unnecessary to take any disputed points to the War Labor Board for decision.

Besides maintenance of membership, the contract brings a 3% wage increase, one week's vacation with pay, Union bulletin board rights and payment for time when called in but no work is available.

29% Increase Since '41

Since Jan. 1941 pay increases totalling 29% have been won at Siegel's. The 3% boost at this time is on the grounds that wages are still unequal with other factries in the area. Both the pay increase and vacation provision must be approved by the WLB before becoming final.

CIO Backs Red Cross

Washington—Terming the 1943 American Red Cross War Fund Campaign a vital part of the CIO War Effort, Pres. Philip Murray called on over 5,000,000 members of the CIO to "take up the job planned by the National Committee for American and Allied War Relief and drive it through to a smashing victory."

Saves Lives

"Only the Red Cross can bring word from far off prison camps to anxious parents, only the Red Cross can furnish food and medical supplies to these captured American boys, and only the Red Cross can have life-saving blood plasma ready when they fall on the battlefield," said Murray.

CIO groups are undertaking to raise their share of local Red Cross goals.

ARIZONA LABOR GROUP PROBES ABSENTEEISM

Phoenix, Ariz.—A survey on absenteeism which will include evidence from workers themselves, was launched at the March 19 meeting of the Arizona Labor Committee, composed of four each from the CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods. The Committee, chaired by UCAPAWA Int. Rep. Paul Gardner was brought together by Governor Osborn. Int. Rep. Chuck Feller is also a member.

The Committee revealed that no statistics on the causes of absenteeism had as yet been made available; that in many cases workers home on their regular day off had been listed as "absentees"; that illness and the great increase of women in industry were prime factors in absenteeism. The Committee, however, was unanimous in its opinion that actual absenteeism now is considerably less than before Pearl Harbor.

The above photo shows the original joint labor group which set up the Committee. Governor Osborn is seated. Just above him (center of photo) is Paul Gardner.

Notes from the LOCALS

55 In spite of a severely painful sciatic nerve, Jennie Stiver, Press Agent of Local 55 in Middletown, O. wrote off this report in bed, promising more details later:

"Mr. Robert Clark, Vice-Pres. was with us at our meeting March 19. He said the P. Lorillard officials did not come here with any intentions of negotiating a contract with us. They wanted the old contract to continue with some changes that would benefit them.

"We appointed three Committeemen, Mr. Oscar Riley, Mr. N. Riddle and Mr. Lee Carter to go with Mr. Robert Clark to Washington to meet with a Conciliator and P. Lorillard officals, sometime in April.

"Mr. Clark advised us to appoint a Political Committee, which we did, to take care of that branch of the work."

281 The Committee with Brother Clark met March 10 with the Conciliation Board and the President of the firm, Mr. Meyers, It was an all day session in which he offered 5% raise and we again refused. Our case will now go before the WLB.

The employees all feel that the Company will come across with more, as you must hand it to Brother Clark; he sure is putting up a great fight for the girls, and he has done in the past a great job for Local 281.

He sure is a great worker, not only for Local 281, for he has a job to cover all over Michigan, and as a worker in the field sure does get around and does a fine job.

And he is always there when Local 281 calls on him. So we take our hats off to Bro. Clark.

The packers staged a strike March 11 as they feel they are underpaid according to the rest of the plant. But they returned to work with the promise from the Manager and Pres. Drapinski that they would try and get more for the girls.

A drive for the Red Cross was taken through the plant March 11 and we send through the Local $128.20; also several of the girls have made their 3rd trip to give blood.

As a Steward in the Packing Dept., Sister Pelkey is sure there with the goods in helping the girls and settling trouble.

By Kathryn Bennett, Press Agent, Webster Cigar Local, Detroit

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE

79 Bro. William Chapman is a full-fledged air raid warden, his post being by Dow Chemical Co. We know he will do a good job on this as he has been our doorman since Local 79 started.

By Lillian Mersdorf, Fin. Secy. (Beutel Cannery, Bay City, Mich.)

194 On April 3, all Chicago Local 194 divisions will dance at the Palais de Guardes hall to Eddie King's popular band (union label.) Shop stewards and many active members are selling tickets.

COTTON SEED OIL AND COMPRESS DIVISION

CALIFORNIA COTTON COMPRESS WORKERS

By Ben Fleming, Press Agent

Bakersfield, Calif.—Here are some of the members of Kern County Cotton Industrial Workers Union, Local 272: (l. to r.) **Every Brown**, band riveter, a thrifty union worker and one of our Trustees; **Otis Brown**, Chairman of the Trustees and **Santiago "Sandy" Salas**, Chief Job Steward, two of the Union's hardest pullers; and **Henry Hatly**, an old compress ace whose specialty is riveting bands.

GRAIN PROCESSING DIVISION

First CIO Contract In Huron County Before WLB

By Margaret Wood, Press Agent

Harbor Beach, Mich.—The Bargaining Committee of Local 20, Huron Milling Co. met March 15 with the Company representatives, Commissioner Hunt of the U. S. Conciliation Service and Int. Vice-Pres. Robert Clark to resume negotiations on the first CIO contract in Huron County.

On Dec. 29, 1942, Huron Milling Workers booted the American Industrial Union, a so-called "Independent", in an NLRB election and chose Local 20.

Out of some 380 workers, only four are women of whom the Press Agent is one, with a good nose for news and a smooth pen—for proof, consult this story.

Conciliator Lends Hand

Original negotiations bogged down when the Company and Union disagreed on a number of contract clauses essential to a good union contract. Through the good cooperation and expeditious handling of essential clauses by Comm. Hunt, all were agreed to except grievance procedure, top seniority for shop stewards and committeemen, maintenance of membership and wages.

The Company objected to almost everything that would cost the Company money and to anything that would strengthen the Union.

Win Paid Vacations

Highlights of the negotiations were a satisfactory seniority clause, arbitration clause and paid vacations which heretofore we never enjoyed.

Comm. Hunt in his report to Dr. Steelman recommended the case be certified to the War Labor Board. Local 20 hopes for a WLB hearing shortly.

Chose Officers

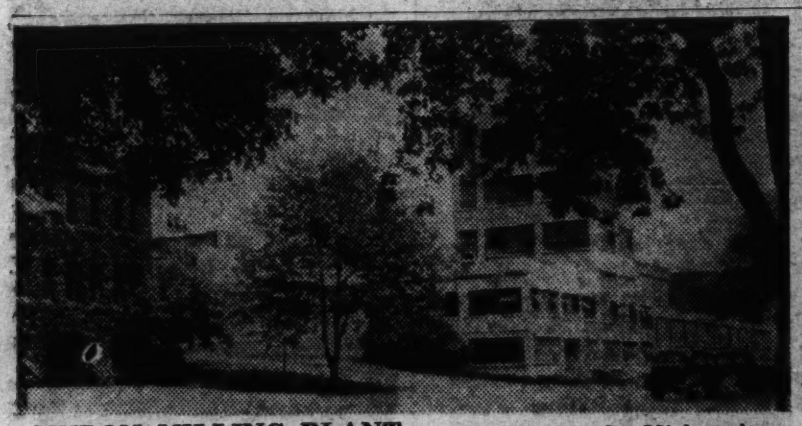
Recently elected officers of Local 20 are: George Hickens, Pres.; Harvey Foe, Vice-Pres.; Donald Hunter, Rec. and Fin. Secy.; Allen McIlvenna, Treas.; Arnold Meyers, Sgt.-at-arms; Lawrence O'Mara, Doorman; Harold Richards, 1 Yr. Trustee; Ted Stephenson, 2 Yr. Trustee; Roy Wisenbaugh, 3 Yr. Trustee; George Hickens, Chief Steward; and Executive Shop Committee: Donald Hunter, Chairman, George Hickens, Roy Wisenbaugh, Ted Stephenson, Casey Konjocas, Harvey Foe and Ray Blaskill, Atlernate.

110 A USO recreation center is being established in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with various groups donating time in doing what they can to help.

Six men from our Local (Quaker Oats) did the cleaning—washing walls and floor.

A gathering was arranged by the Federated Labor Legislative Council of Iowa to hear Dr. R. W. Tallman of Des Moines discuss inter-American relations. The meeting is intended to start a class that will study the problems of organized labor and labor's place among men, an adult group composed of ALL the organized people.

By Agnes Dvorak, Press Agnet



HURON MILLING PLANT in Harbor Beach, Mich, where Local 20 is engaged in winning the first CIO contract in Huron County. Harbor Beach is a town of 2,500. Some 380 work at the milling plant.

Win Two Compress Votes in Missouri

Arbyd, Mo. — Arbyd Copress workers here chose UCAPAWA by a vote of 17 to 4 in an NLRB election.

Kennett, Mo. — NLRB vote at the Dunklin County Compress And Warehouse here shows a 55 to 11 UCAPAWA majority.

Rickenbacker Asks War Mothers To Fight Labor

Indianapolis (FP)—Eddie Rickenbacker came to Indiana to propose organization of a national war mothers' club, whose chief purpose would be to push anti-labor legislation. The first result of Rickenbacker's speech here—his most vicious yet—was to bring about a united front of AFL and CIO in this city.

AFL-CIO Join Hands

Incensed by a double cross from Indianapolis industrialists who, knowing that production morale here is high, had promised that the airlines magnate would not attack labor, the AFL and CIO formed committees to organize a united labor for victory front at once.

Col. Arthur Herrington, who heads the big Marmon-Herrington war plant here (and is a lifelong friend of Rickenbacker) accepted responsibility of convincing the airlines magnate that Indiana labor did not deserve a spanking. But Rickenbacker, with venom in his voice and the Natl. Assn. of Manufacturers in the audience, could not restrain himself.

Take Up Workers' Time

Decrying absenteeism, Rick caused the loss of more than 700 manhours of production when he spoke for 22 minutes before 2,000 workers in the Allison Division, General Motors, only source for the famous Allison engine.

There were boos and Rick was spirited out the side door of the plant cafeteria and did not return as scheduled to address the next shift.

NMU Won't Carry Oil to Fascists

The National Maritime Union (CIO) served notice on the State Dept. March 12 that it will "not be a party to carrying vital materials to Franco Spain which can and will be utilized to bolster the Nazi war machine."

A resolution adopted by the Port of New York membership declared that NMU members would "cease being the transmission belt by which American supplies are shipped to our enemies." A majority of the 3,905 merchant seamen killed in action during this war were NMU members.

Visit State Department

Several days later, some 20 NMU seamen, all of them in from the North Africa, the Atlantic or the Russian run, went to Washington to bring the resolution to the State Dept. in person.

The men were politely received, they said—and told that the Department would gladly hear any evidence that oil to Franco was being handed over to the Axis.

The NMU members have seen Spanish tankers at sea in a condition very obviously indicating that they have recently unloaded their cargo—with more than a strong suspicion that it went to U-boats.

Starch Worker: We'll Show Rick

Indianapolis—"The city is in turmoil because of the spanking Rickenbacker gave labor," reports Int. Rep. Herschel Lile, former Pres. of Piel Starch Local 92 here.

"We are having a mass meeting of the AFL and CIO around April 15. We are having this meeting in the same hall where Rickenbacker spoke, and we will really fill it."

NLRB Rules Out Anti-CIO Move At Armour Mill

Memphis—With dismissal by the National Labor Relations Board of a phony anti-UCAPAWA petition at the Forrest City, Ark., Cotton Oil Mill of Armour & Co., the Company has no leg left to stand on in its refusal to negotiate a contract with Local 19.

Workers Chose UCAPAWA

In Feb. 1942, UCAPAWA won an NLRB election. On March 29, 1942, a petition was sent to the NLRB requesting that they set aside their certification of UCAPAWA.

In dismissing the petition on March 16, 1943 the NLRB went right to the point, simply saying that "Since the petition was circulated and signed in the plant only 5 weeks after the employees had indicated their choice of a collective bargaining representative in a secret ballot election and since some of the signatures on the petition are those of supervisory employees, we shall dismiss the petition."

Union Accuses Company

As soon as Armour stalled on negotiations, UCAPAWA carried on the fight for Union conditions by charging that the Company had refused to bargain with the Union in violation of Federal law.

In the course of the hearings which followed, the Company told the NLRB that they held off negotiating simply because of the petition. Now the Board has met the Company on its own grounds by saying, in effect: "we have settled the petition matter, now go ahead and negotiate."

Remarks A La Hitler

Bitterly anti-union attitude of the Company was illustrated by the Hitlerite remark made by a Mr. Hicky who is in charge of the Armour mills in this area. Int. Rep. A. J. Marcus heard Hicky remark to Labor Board attorney Charles Kyle: "I would not mind dealing with them, but all they got representing them is a bunch of Jews and Wops."

With the handing down of the NLRB decision, UCAPAWA hopes that the Company will accept the American principle of Unionism without resorting to further name calling or other excuses for avoiding contract negotiation.

Third Miss. Plant Goes UCAPAWA

Greenville, Miss. — A third Greenville plant went UCAPAWA when workers at the Greenville Oil Mill here turned in a vote of 55 to 11 for Local 283 on Feb. 19.

Previously, UCAPAWA had won elections and signed union security contracts at Refugee Cotton Oil and Vegetable Oil Mill. Organization started in Greenville last September when cotton oil mill workers set the ball rolling in Mississippi by asking Int. Rep. Otis Nation to help them.

This was one of the first moves for CIO organization in the state.

EDITOR'S LETTER

If any of you have friends who are taken in by the old Hitler gag of red-baiting, just remind them that Thomas Jefferson, whose 200th anniversary is being celebrated by all patriotic Americans in April, was called an atheistic, anarchistic enemy of the Republic by most of the newspapers of his day. (Tip from Federated Press, labor's own news gathering agency.)

Deadline for next issue of the NEWS is April 9. If word is sent in advance that they are coming, stories may get in as late as April 12.

Get your news, pictures and letters into print!

REFUTING RICKENBACKER, Wage-Hour Administrator L. Metcalfe Walling stated that time and one-half for overtime is "a most effective force in keeping down absences in industry."